

Clark County Veterans Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

An advisory board to the Clark County Board of Councilors

October 8, 2015

1300 Franklin Street, Room #680

Vancouver, Washington

Chair: Bruce Maas

Vice Chair: Thomas Kula

Secretary: Mike Gibson

Meeting called to order by Bruce Maas

Roll Call: [Bold script indicates presence at meeting]

POST

40 et 8

American Legion #14

American Legion #27

American Legion #168

American Legion #176

American Veterans #6

DAV Chapter #4

Korean War Assoc. #321

Marine Corps League #826

VFW #4278

VFW #7824

VFW # 12028

Vietnam Vets #512

Members at Large

PRIMARY

Steve Slegers

Dixie Hotaling

Elisa Cotton

Robert Nichols

Michael Gibson

John Lovejoy

Thomas Kula

George Raynor

Lou Basté

John Raynor

Bruce Maas

Skip Benge

Greg Whitson

Kevin Lawson

Candis Oliver

ALTERNATE

Sam Grooms

Dean Collins

Shawn O'Neil

Richard Langenbach

Jonathan Frederick

Bubba Conway

Frank Hyatt

Randy Warneke

Gary Dowler

Dale Rex

Dave Barton

Joseph Fettig

Clark County Representative: Samantha Whitley

Guests: Judy Russel, (Veterans Assistance Center); Jeremy Garcia (211info); Michael Langsdorf

September 10, 2015, Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved with a motion by Bob Nichols and a second from Steve Slegers.

USO NW Presentation

No information at this time.

211info.org

211info.org is an information and referral service for individuals needing social or health services. Jeremy Garcia, a veteran, is tasked with getting the word out to individuals in Southwest Washington.

Committee Reports

Appeals

One gas voucher appeal was approved; another appeal was denied as the appellant did not meet income guidelines.

Policies and Procedures

No discussion at this time.

Nominations

First call nomination are taken this month. Second call nominations are in November. The vote will occur in December. Bruce Maas was nominated for chair. No nominations were received for vice chair. Mike Gibson was nominated for secretary.

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August Contractor Reports & County Fund Report

The Veterans Assistance Center received 534 veterans' visits and 703.5 volunteer hours; 88 veterans received emergency assistance at a cost of \$24,470. The Stand Down served 113 homeless veterans and 88 additional veterans with 64 providers and 161 volunteers. The cost was around \$7,000. The Free Clinic treated four veterans, for which the fund was billed \$2,052. An additional 18 veterans received dental care at the Stand Down. The Veterans Assistance Fund balance was \$350,666 at the end of August.

Veterans Assistance Center Update

More veterans are visiting the Center as the weather changes. The Fund balance is \$80,000; there may be need for more funds before the end of the year. LIHEAP assistance for veterans will be coordinated through the Center starting October 15. A grand reopening is planned before the end of the year.

Old Business

Status of Policies and Procedures Changes

Policy and Procedures changes need to be approved by the Board of County Councilors. Date will be determined.

CCVAB Facebook Outreach

The County Facebook page will post all CCVAB information.

New Business

Bob Nichols and Bruce Maas attended the WDVA Statewide Summit last week. The WDVA's number of homeless veterans in Clark County needs to be corrected. The need for transportation among veterans is high, so volunteer drivers are being recruited. Currently, Clark County veterans are sent to the VA in Hillsboro to file claims, and to the VA in Seattle for hearings. It is recommended Portland provide a Comp and Pen office and hearings.

Open Forum

- Local schools request honor guards for assemblies on November 11.
- Post 168 is sponsoring a free lunch for veterans on Veterans Day at the Whistle Stop in Yacolt.
- Parade at Fort Vancouver November 7.
- Armed Forces Reserve Center event November 11.
- Free meals at several restaurants on Veterans Day.
- November 9, Trailblazer Veterans Appreciation night.
- Congresswoman Herrera-Beutler sponsoring the Honor a Vet program. Contact her office for more information.
- Post 27 collecting used soccer balls with Portland Timbers.
- Women's veterans preparing for next year's Stand Down with travel items. Next meeting at 40et8 on October 24, 11:00 a.m.
- CCVAB will continue to meet as regularly scheduled through the winter. On inclement weather days, meetings will be canceled if schools are closed.

Adjournment

Bob Nichols moved to adjourn the meeting; Dixie Hotaling seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting

November 12, 2015, at 1400 hours, in the Councilors' Hearing Room.